



1938.

Annual Report

ON THE WORK OF THE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OF THE

Warrington Rural District Council

BY

JAMES BENNETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Also the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector,
W. E. BREEDS, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

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WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman :

Mr. H. B. WRIGHT, J.P. ... CUERDLEY.

Vice-Chairman :

Mr. T. C. SHAW ... Winwick.

Councillors :

Names.				Township.
Mr. T. FORSHAW	...	...	...	BURTONWOOD.
Mr. C. E. PARKER, J.P.	...	...	...	PENKETH.
Mr. W. H. COTTRELL	...	...	...	POULTON-WITH-FEARNHEAD.
Mr. A. S. BREWER	...	...	...	RIXTON-WITH-GLAZEBROOK.
Mr. R. RYDER	...	...	...	WOOLSTON.
Mr. E. SMETHURST	...	...	...	WINWICK.
Mr. J. J. P. PALIN	...	...	...	SANKEY.
Mr. G. BERRY, J.P.	..	...	...	CROFT.

Officials :

Mr. E. J. SUTTON, *Clerk.*
 Dr. J. BENNETT, *Medical Officer.*
 Mr. W. E. BREEDS, *Sanitary Inspector.*
 Mr. A. DONALD, *Additional Sanitary Inspector.*
 Mr. H. H. BURNAGE, *Highway Surveyor.*
 Mr. F. C. HILL, *Housing and Sanitary Surveyor.*
 Mr. G. B. SIMCOCK, *Rating Officer.*
 Mr. J. BERRY, *Town Planning Officer.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Sixteenth and last Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your District covering the year 1938.

Following the usual procedure, the following matters are dealt with in some detail, in addition to the tabulated form relative to:—
1, Statistics and Social Conditions ; 2, General Provision of Health Services ; 3, Sanitary Circumstances of the Area ; 4, Housing ; 5, Inspection and Supervision of Food ; 6, Prevalence of and Control Over Infectious Diseases, &c., &c., already forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health.

A.—POPULATION.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION, MID-YEAR, 1938 : 20,430.

Included in the 20,430 (an increase of 930 on the previous year), and on which figure the various statistical rates are estimated, are the following :—

(1) County Mental Hospital—Male patients, 1,235; female patients 1,312; staff, males 55, females 204; total 2,806. Resident on Estate, 300.

(2) Padgate Cottage Homes—Officers 18, children 141; total 159.

(3) St. George's Home, Penketh—Total 37. Staff 4, Boys 33, resident on Estate, nil.

All Deaths and Infectious Diseases Notifications from these Institutions pass through your Registers.

The large number of new houses erected in the District no doubt accounts for the substantial increase of 930 in the population.

The following are the figures for the last four decades, viz. :—

1901	...	...	...	...	10,496
1911	...	...	...	...	13,699
1921	...	...	...	...	12,129
1931	...	...	...	...	16,035
1933 (after alteration of Boundaries)					15,670
1934 („ further „ „)					16,070
1935	...	...	...	...	16,570
1936	...	...	...	...	18,100
1937	...	...	...	...	19,500
1938	...	...	...	...	20,430

B.1.— BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

The Birth-rate—18.3 per 1,000 of the population—is 3.7 higher than last year. The average for the previous 10 years was 13.93. The Rate for England and Wales in 1938 was 15.61. There were 375 Live Births, of which 14 were illegitimate. There were 16 still-births, which equals a rate of 40 per 1,000 total Births.

The Death Rate is again low, viz., 9.3 per 1,000, against 9.7 in 1937 and 10.4 in 1936, and 9.7 average for the previous 10 years. The Death Rate for England and Wales in 1938 was 11.6.

The total number of Deaths was 191 (98 males, 93 females).

In 1937 there were 190 Deaths (107 males, 83 females).

The principal causes of Death were :—Heart Disease and Circulatory Diseases 54, Respiratory Diseases (including 4 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis) 25, Cancer 29, against 21 in 1937. There were 3 Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were no Deaths from Puerperal Fever, but there were 2 Deaths from other Puerperal causes, 12 from Pneumonia, 3 from Measles, 1 from Encephalitis Lethargica, and 1 from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

The number of Deaths from Cancer during the last 14 years has been 18, 13, 16, 17, 22, 20, 19, 27, 17, 16, 23, 26, 21, 29.

COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL.

There were 125 Deaths in the County Mental Hospital.

Of the 125 Deaths, 51 were due to Heart and Circulatory Diseases and 26 to Respiratory Diseases, whilst 3 were attributable to Cancer, and 1 from Diphtheria.

CANCER CAMPAIGN.

The Warrington Rural District being a constituent Authority under

the Warrington and District Branch of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, residents in the area are entitled to Free Radium Treatment at the Liverpool Radium Institute, 1, Myrtle Street, Liverpool, in all cases where the Consultant Medical Officer considers that such treatment is suitable.

Applications for vouchers should be made by the Medical Practitioner concerned to the Honorary Secretary of the Committee, Dr. S. F. Allison, Health Department, Sankey Street, Warrington. It is also essential that the patient should take a letter from his or her own doctor along to the Radium Institute.

The Radium Treatment is free, but patients are expected to contribute what they can afford towards maintenance whilst in Hospital.

Two cases belonging to the district were treated during the year. There may have been others, but as there is no statutory notification of cancer cases, it will be realised that it is impossible to get accurate knowledge of the extent of the disease. Death Returns are the only definite source of information, whilst cured cases are unknown to the Health Department except from chance information.

The hours of consultation at the Radium Institute, 1, Myrtle Street, Liverpool, are as follows :—

Wednesdays ... 1.30 p.m. for surgical cases.
Thursdays ... 1.30 p.m. for other cases.

B.2.—INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 2 deaths of infants under one year old (including 13 transfers of infants who died outside the District). The Infant Mortality equals 69 per 1,000 live Births, being 20 higher than in 1937. The average for 11 years was 60.

The figure for England and Wales for 1938 was 57.

The distribution of Infantile Deaths for the last 13 years are as follows :—

	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Burtonwood	10	4	4	4	2	3	5	1	5	5	1	3	3
Penketh	2	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	2	2	3	1	4
Sankey	2	3	0	2	2	3	2	0	5	2	5	5	5
Winwick	1	2	4	2	3	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	1
Croft	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Rixton-with-Glazebrook	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2
Poulton-with-Fearnhead	3	3	5	2	1	1	3	0	0	2	2	3	5
Cuerdley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woolston-with-Martinscroft	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	4	0	4
Totals ..	18	14	14	12	9	15	15	6	14	13	15	14	26

C.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 130 Notifications during the year, an increase in the number of Infectious Diseases of 13. The rate per 1,000 of the population is 6.3. 58 cases were treated in Hospital. In addition, there were 8 notifications from the County Mental Hospital, Winwick.

SCARLET FEVER.

The cases throughout the year were of a very mild nature and needed neither medicine nor special treatment excepting isolation. Such cases rarely develop complications.

There was one instance of a return case after a child returned home from hospital. 5 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred successively in one house notwithstanding that they were each in turn removed and the house thoroughly disinfected after each removal to hospital.

PNEUMONIA.

The notifications during the last 6 years were 46, 33, 25, 22, 44 and 24.

Erysipelas 7, Puerperal Pyrexia 5, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1, completed the total of Notifications, with the exception of Tuberculosis, for which see Table 10, Page 42.

DIPHTHERIA AND IMMUNISATION.

Diphtheria, of which there were 16 cases and no deaths, has not been so extensive as the previous year. Poulton-with-Fearnhead with 9 cases was the Parish most affected. The cases were unevenly distributed throughout the year, 12 cases occurring in the first quarter and 3 cases in November and December.

As it is inadvisable to undertake immunisation during an epidemic, it was considered to be wise to take advantage of the partial lull in a disease which of later years had become more or less continuous. It was decided to test the feeling of the parents regarding the question of immunisation, and if the response was reasonably good, to establish Clinics in the various Parishes.

The first step was an approach to the Head teachers of all the schools asking for their co-operation. In a most willing way all consented to give whatever assistance they could.

In July, just before the Summer holidays, supplies of the following circular letter—with attached consent form—were sent to each School, viz. :

THE PREVENTION OF DIPHTHERIA !

ALL PARENTS are advised to allow their Children to be protected against Diphtheria by IMMUNISATION.

It is unnecessary to inoculate babies under twelve months old, but after that age, the sooner it is done the better because :—

- (a) *Very young children do not feel any discomfort from inoculation, and*
- (b) *It is important to protect children when very young because Diphtheria is more fatal in young children than in older children.*

The course would consist of injections into the arm. These injections do not make the arm sore, very rarely produce any subsequent symptoms, and seldom makes the child cry.

Protection against Diphtheria reaches its height about three months after the last inoculation and protects for several years, and in many cases throughout life.

One great city had been inoculating against Diphtheria since 1925, in which period approximately 93,000 children have been protected. In the whole period of twelve years only 62 cases of Diphtheria have occurred in protected children and there have been no deaths; in the same period there have been over 13,000 cases amongst the non-protected and, 857 deaths. These figures show clearly the value of immunisation.

The starting or otherwise of a Scheme of FREE Immunisation will depend on the number of children regarding whom " consent " forms are received signed by the parent.

If you wish to have your child immunised, please complete the attached form and return without delay.

JAMES BENNETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
7, Springfield Street,
Warrington.

In addition, large posters dealing with immunisation were displayed throughout the district.

The teachers were asked to distribute the circular letters in such a manner that one would reach every home represented in the school. Realising that there would be many families in which there would be children, but none of school age, advantage was taken of the Housing Census obtained two years earlier under the Overcrowding Act to locate

such children. To the homes of the latter a copy of the circular letter with the attached form for application for immunisation was sent by post. It was arranged that application forms should be handed in at the local school or sent direct to the Health Office.

To work the Scheme, it was necessary to have the assistance of a part-time Clerk, whilst the County Authorities gave every assistance by allowing their Health visitors to attend the clinics, and providing accommodation in the schools.

As a result of this procedure the following percentages of consents were obtained viz. :

Penketh and Cuerdley 49, Woolston 44, Poulton 43, Winwick 36, Sankey 31.5, Croft 29, Rixton 24, and Burtonwood 22.

Registers were kept in relation to each school and the names of all consentors were entered. It was decided to commence Immunisation first in the Schools from which there were the greatest number of applicants.

As will be seen the percentage of consents varied from 49 per cent. at Penketh and Cuerdley to 22 per cent. at Burtonwood. The average for the whole area was 35 per cent. These figures though not as high as is desirable, justified commencing the Scheme. It is probable that when other parents have realised the safety of the procedure and the absence of subsequent reactions to the treatment, they will, if another series of clinics are held in the same Parishes, lead to quite a big increase of the numbers immunised.

During the year, the following Schools were dealt with : Woolston R.C., Poulton C.E., Poulton R.C., Penketh Council and Winwick C.E., and the remaining Schools in the District, with the exception of Burtonwood, have been dealt with during the spring of 1939.

SUMMARY OF DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, JULY, 1938—APRIL, 1939.

T.A.F.

Parish	1st injection	2nd injection	3rd injection
Penketh	200	195	188
Poulton	235	230	218
Winwick	58	58	57
Sankey	194	189	188
Croft	53	53	52
Woolston	75	74	74
Rixton	39	39	39
	854	838	816

A.P.T.

Parish	1st injection	2nd injection
Woolston	31	31

TOTAL COMPLETED WITH T.A.F. AND A.P.T.—847.

Total cost of the Scheme £206 17s. 1d.

Average cost per child	...	4s. 8d.	} approximately.
„ „ dose	...	1s. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	

Two different preparations were used for immunising purposes. At first, Alum Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T.), two injections were used. Whilst this was very satisfactory in children up to 8 years of age, it was not quite so satisfactory above that age. As a result of this, the Sub-Committee decided that Toxoid-Antitoxin-Floccules (T.A.F.), with 3 injections, should be used in all cases. This, although a little more costly and involving more work, was found to be entirely satisfactory for all ages.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of rooms and buildings has been systematically carried out after both Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Whether it serves any useful purpose beyond a psychological effect on the people in the house is very much open to question. Since discontinuing steam disinfection of bedding, there is no evidence whatever that the incidence of infectious diseases has increased. This has meant a considerable saving of expense to the Council without detriment to the public. For fuller argument see 1935 Report.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 9 notifications of Pulmonary and 5 of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, against 12 and 7 respectively last year.

There were 4 deaths from Pulmonary and 3 from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, as against 9 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary in 1937.

The Death Rate from Tuberculosis was only 0.34 per 1,000. The average 17 years ago was about 0.90 per 1,000.

COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL, WINWICK.

During the year, by arrangement with the County Tuberculosis Department, it was decided that cases of Tuberculosis occurring in the County Mental Hospital, Winwick, should be transmitted to the area in which the patient resided before admission, consequently cases of this disease are not now recorded in our register.

There were 8 Infectious Diseases Notifications from the County Mental Hospital, 2 Erysipelas, 4 Pneumonia and 2 Diphtheria.

HOSPITAL CHARGES.

The total cost of treatment of Infectious cases in Hospital was £1,395. It will be seen from the following table that this is much above the average for the last 14 years, and was due largely to the number of virulent cases of diphtheria.

					£	s.	d.
Year ending 31st March,	1925	...	...	...	399	10	0
"	"	"	"	1926 (including £134 for Small-pox cases)	613	4	6
"	"	"	"	1927 population 13,520	295	15	0
"	"	"	"	1928 " 16,030	450	10	3
"	"	"	"	1929 " 15,920	246	0	0
"	"	"	"	1930 " 15,920	1,285	2	8
"	"	"	"	1931 " 16,290	850	0	0
"	"	"	"	1932 " 16,490	1,240	5	6
"	"	"	"	1933 " 15,530	267	7	10
"	"	"	"	1934 " 16,070	615	0	0
"	"	"	"	1935 " 16,570	1,015	17	2
"	"	"	"	1936 " 18,100	2,235	0	9
"	"	"	"	1937 " 19,500	1,395	0	0
"	"	"	"	1938 " 20,430	956	9	4
					£11,954	3	0

Average cost per annum ... £853 17 4

It has to be borne in mind that the population is now 20,430 against 13,100 in 1925. The average cost per patient was about £20.

D.—GENERAL SANITARY MATTERS.

There have not been any great alterations during the year, and many details will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report at the end of this Report.

HEALTH SERVICES.

Circulars giving full details of the Health Services in the districts were posted up in all Post Offices during the year and in many other places. The Circular gave particulars relative to Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, School Clinics, Nursing Associations, Vaccination, Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases, Hospitals serving the District and Ambulance facilities.

STREAMS AND DITCHES.

Bad as things have been for some years, the state of ditches in

all parishes, but especially in Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Sankey and Penketh, have gone steadily worse. I cannot emphasise sufficiently the urgency of this matter. Complaints are, naturally, frequent, and the earlier the Sewerage Scheme at present in hand is completed the better, as the natural watercourses are almost everywhere fouled, whilst in the Parishes mentioned above, conditions are particularly bad.

E.—HOUSING.

During 1938, a large part of the time of the Health Department had again to be given to housing matters.

For full details relative to the Overcrowding Act, see the Annual Report for 1936.

HOUSING ACT, 1930. (DEMOLITION OF UNFIT HOUSES).

A further number of old houses were inspected during the year with a view to ascertaining whether they should be scheduled for demolition or not. No houses were scheduled for demolition in 1938. Eight houses were demolished: Burtonwood 2, Sankey 1, Poulton 1, Winwick 3, and Woolston 1.

There have been 326 New Houses erected in the Area during the year.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

53 houses were completed during 1938 for persons displaced under the demolition scheme. 43 are in course of construction to relieve overcrowding.

HOUSING PROGRESS (BEFORE AND AFTER BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS)

	No. in District	No. in District after alteration of Boundaries	No. of houses on Rate Book Dec. 31st.
	1931	1933	1938
Burtonwood	475	470	515
Croft (incl. Risley)	242	352	365
Cuerdley	23	29	32
Penketh	524	533	991
Poulton	537	539	1204
Rixton	255	255	422
Sankey	585	585	1228
Winwick (incl. Houghton)	634	188	374
Woolston	150	153	565
	3425	3104	5696

NEW HOUSES ERECTED SINCE 1921.

1921	...	...	24
1922	...	...	31
1923	...	...	28
1924	...	...	83
1925	...	...	129
1926	...	...	122
1927	...	...	74
1928	...	...	34
1929	...	...	89
1930	...	...	68
1931	...	...	103
1932	...	...	118
1933	...	..	205
1934	...	...	277
1935	...	...	448
1936	...	...	553
1937	...	...	498
1938	...	...	326

Total ... 3,210

Notwithstanding the fact that 326 New Houses have been erected during the year and that 3,210 New Houses have been erected during the last 18 years, the demand for very low rented houses still continues.

The Council is the owner of the following 167 Houses, viz.:—

1. Under the Housing (Rural Authorities) Act, 1931 :

Woolston	10
----------	-----	-----	-----	----

2. Under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924 :

Burtonwood	...	...	...	21
Poulton-with-Fearnhead	...	...	...	13
Croft	...	...	...	6
Penketh	...	...	...	15
Sankey	...	...	...	10

3. UNDER HOUSING ACT, 1930.

Penketh	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sankey	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Burtonwood	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Rixton	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Poulton	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(2 for residents in Winwick, 2 for Rixton, and 1 for Woolston)							
Croft	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Winwick	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Woolston	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Cuerdley	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

(including 3 in the added Norton district)

4. Under Housing Act, 1936 ... 53

F.—MILK, COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Constant watch has been kept on the milk supplies in the District and 52 samples were taken for testing for tubercle bacilli. Two of the samples were positive.

One new cowshed and two new dairies were erected during the year.

G.—DISTRICT NURSING AND CHILD WELFARE.

A new Child Welfare Centre was established at Poulton in 1937 for the use of the Parishes of Poulton-with-Fearnhead and Woolston. This Centre has been very well patronised and increasing use of the other Centres is being made by the public.

There are now District Nurses employed by Voluntary Associations in all parishes. These are supplying a great need and their services are much appreciated. Croft has the services of a District Nurse jointly with Culcheth. The nurses in each Parish undertake midwifery cases.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP, ABERGELE.

The work of Mr. H. Payton, School Attendance Officer, in connection with this Camp is most praiseworthy.

During the year 113 boys and girls drawn from all schools in the District were privileged to have a full week for each section at the seaside. Notwithstanding the large amount of organisation needed and the responsibility of personal supervision, the teachers have co-operated wholeheartedly with Mr. Payton in carrying out this most beneficial work.

H.—AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Tentative arrangements for dealing with matters connected with possible invasion of this country from the air and the dangers to which the community might be subjected were discussed by all your Officials from time to time throughout the early part of the year, culminating in a sudden and intense application of thought and activity when the Crisis known as the Czecho-Slovakian Crisis occurred during the last week in September. With a possible imminent danger to life from high explosive, incendiary, and poisonous gas bombs, every official made haste to extemporise means of combating the evils which might follow in his own department. It had long been realised that danger to life itself was very great and whilst every able-bodied individual might do something, it was the duty of the Local Authority to organise and co-ordinate the services, not only of those trained in Nursing and First Aid, but also of those with a will to help and a desire to assist in alleviating suffering. It was the natural duty of the Health Department to take charge of the work connected with life and health of

the people. This was a pre-arranged part of a full and comprehensive scheme which had been evolved at least 12 months earlier.

The first and main consideration was to establish Centres or First-Aid Posts to which accidents could be taken for First-Aid treatment and then to gather together as many as possible of those who had had nursing or First-Aid training. Many premises were inspected, but by far the most adaptable and best distributed at short notice were the Penketh Tannery Recreation Hall and Poulton Methodist Sunday School, and it will always redound to the credit of the owners and trustees for the willing and sympathetic way in which they offered to assist in any way possible notwithstanding the tremendous upset which the conversion of their premises to meet the public emergency would entail.

It has to be remembered in regard to premises that internally at least four separate rooms were required for the treatment of each sex, with baths and spray apparatus, also rooms for clerical work, storing of surgical and medical equipment, etc., and that externally there must be ample space for ingress and egress of ambulances and for dealing with possible gas contaminated clothing.

With all these requirements in view, it will be realised that the finding of adequate premises was not easy.

The necessary adaptations were considered and plans for these were drawn and discussed with County representatives. It was decided that no schools at all should be used as First-Aid Posts largely owing to the fact that Warrington Rural District was to be a "receiving" area for children evacuated from adjacent Towns and all available school accommodation would be required for educational purposes.

The education of volunteers for public service in First-Aid, Anti-gas and Decontamination was a matter of extreme importance. Public meetings were called at Penketh, Sankey, Burtonwood, Poulton, Winwick and Woolston which were well attended. The need for volunteers for the various departments was explained as was also the need for special education and the practical training of such volunteers. Many enrolled and courses of lectures in First-Aid and Anti-gas measures and decontamination were arranged. Local doctors conducted First-Aid Classes, while the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector after themselves attending courses of Anti-gas lectures at Easingwold and Preston respectively, subsequently obtained the A.R.P.S. and L.A.G.C. certificates, and gave several courses of lectures in Anti-gas, High Explosive and Incendiary Bombs.

All sections of the public attended these lectures and the community spirit of "each for all and all for each" was fully demonstrated. Subsequently, St. John Ambulance Brigade and Red Cross Associations were formed in some parishes and many who previously had scarcely given a thought to these matters became deeply interested. The members

will in case of emergency—either national or domestic—form a nucleus of valuable service. Subsequently, a statutory Air Raid Precautions Committee was formed. All officials of the Council attended the meetings of this Committee and steady progress is being made.

An enormous number of circulars were received from Government and County departments—all quite necessary under rapidly changing circumstances—and the studying of these in addition to the actual work itself, made it difficult to cope with routine sanitary work, but all urgent matters were dealt with.

I.—PARISH AND OTHER STATISTICAL TABLES.

The following Parish and other Statistical Tables are included, viz. :—

Table	1 (page 31).—Vital Statistics.
„	2 (page 32).—Causes of Death.
„	3 (page 34).—General Mortality Rates, &c.
„	4 (page 35). Births and Deaths Rates for last 20 years.
„	4a (page 35).—Excess of Births over Deaths for the last 11 years.
„	5 (page 36).—List of residents Dying Outside the District.
„	5a (page 37).—Parish Distribution of Transferable Deaths.
„	6 (page 38).—Notifiable Diseases.
„	7 (page 39).—Infectious Diseases : Parish Distribution.
„	8 (page 40).—Monthly Table of Infectious Diseases Notification.
„	9 (page 41).—Infectious Diseases : Proportion to Population.
„	10 (page 42).—Tuberculosis.

As this will be my last Report to your Council, I desire to express my deep appreciation of the continued help of a succession of Councillors and of fellow Officials during the period of 16 years, that it has been my privilege to serve my native district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES BENNETT, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
7, Springfield Street,
Warrington.

September, 1939.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA AS SUPPLIED TO THE COUNTY M.O.H.

Area in acres : 22,840.

Population : Census, 1931, 16,035. Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1938, 20,430.

Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931) : 3,267.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books : 5,696.

RATING AND VALUATION.

Rateable Value : £97,598 (1937, £94,051).

Sum represented by a penny rate : £378 (1937, £363).

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area : Population mainly working-class, but of recent years there is a great increase of middle-class, particularly in Penketh, Sankey, Poulton-with-Fearnhead and Woolston. Chief industries : farming, coal-mining (Burtonwood only), chemical, white lead, tanning, tool-making, brick-making, refrigerator works, brewing, concrete pipe-making, etc.

Extent of unemployment : Difficult to estimate ; much less than two years ago.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health : Nothing noticeable. Strict preventive measures are exercised in the White Lead Works, Sankey.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment : None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the Area during the year : Scarlet Fever was prevalent through the year, but of a mild type. The greatest incidence was in November. No death occurred.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health : None.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults : None.

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—James Bennett, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. Is he a whole or part-time Officer?—Part-time. Any other public appointments held by him?—Part-time M.O.H. to Golborne and Lymm (Cheshire) Urban District Councils; Public Vaccinator, Lancashire County Council. Is he in private practice?—No.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.—W. E. Breeds (whole-time officer); Additional Sanitary Inspector, A. Donald (whole-time officer); and F. W. Kerfoot (part-time officer).

Veterinary Inspector: None. If occasional inspection only is carried out, under what circumstances do these inspections take place (e.g., at the request of the M.O.H., &c.)?—Carried out by County Council after discovery of tubercle in milk by local authority.

Any other Specialised Inspector (e.g., Food Inspector)?—None.

Other Public Health Officers, such as Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Health Visitors, Special Nurses, Dental Surgeon, &c.?—None.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—(a) For Infectious Cases—Warrington Corporation and Newton Urban District Ambulances; (b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases—Warrington Public Assistance Committee and Warrington County Borough. (c) Maternity Patients—Warrington Corporation (all motors). Ambulance services quite adequate.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—There are no arrangements for (a) General Nursing, or (b) Infectious Diseases, &c., in the Home.

State if nursing is provided by arrangement with a district nursing association or directly by the local authority?—Whole-time District Nurses provided by voluntary Nursing Associations at Burtonwood, Sankey and Penketh, and part-time at Croft, by arrangement with Culcheth Nursing Association.

Is there a District Nursing Association established in the the district?—Yes, two. Are they affiliated to the County Nursing Association?—Yes. How many District Nurses employed?—Two. What co-ordination (if any) exists with the local authority?—None. Does the Association undertake (a) Midwifery cases?—Yes. (b) Monthly nursing?—No. Is any financial assistance given by the local authority to voluntary associations?—£5 per annum to Culcheth Nursing Association for services in Croft.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—Is there in your district :—
 Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (Consultation and Treatment)?—
 Yes, for part of the district. Address of Centres : Church Hall,
 Burtonwood, Thursday, 10—12 a.m. Methodist School, Penketh,
 Monday, 2—4 p.m. Methodist School, Padgate, Wednesday,
 2—4 p.m. Provided by Lancashire County Council. Ante-
 Natal Clinic, Day Nursery, School Clinic, Orthopædic Clinic,
 Artificial Light Clinic?—Yes, but provided by County Council.

HOSPITALS IN THE DISTRICT.—(a) Public : The Warrington
 County Borough Smallpox Hospital is in Sankey and a County Mental
 Hospital at Winwick. (b) Voluntary : None.

Is there any institutional provision in your Area for :—Unmarried
 mothers?—No. Illegitimate infants?—No. Homeless children?—No.

The Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927 : Action taken dur-
 ing 1938—Powers not delegated by County Council.

HEALTH EDUCATION.—Any action taken by the local authority
 during the year in regard to the publication of information or
 dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease and the
 importance of early treatment? (e.g., Health Week, Special Lectures,
 &c.)—No Health Weeks held or Special Lectures given; but talks on
 diphtheria were given in several of the schools. Free Leaflets
 dealing with Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Influenza, distributed
 through the schools in areas affected.

Brief description of special efforts made locally in connection with
 National Health Campaign to secure a wider use of the health services.
 —A circular dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare, Nursing Associa-
 tions, Vaccination, Venereal Diseases, Tuberculosis, available Hospitals
 and Ambulance Services was prepared and widely circulated throughout
 the district and in all Post Offices.

NEW LEGISLATION (if any) and date of operation :—
 Local Acts : None.

Special Local Orders : None.

General Adoptive Acts : None.

Bye-laws relating to Public Health : None.

Observations as to their administration : Nil.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—Authority from which supply obtained :
 Warrington, Liverpool and Manchester Corporations and 63 wells.
 Source of supply : Deep wells at Winwick ; also Lakes Vyrnwy
 and Thirlmere. Particulars of any new sources of public
 supply?—None. Is supply of district satisfactory?—(a) In
 quality—Yes. (b) In quantity—Yes. Constant or intermittent?—

Constant. Approximate number of dwelling-houses with piped supplies (public and private)?—Direct from mains, 5,543; by stand pipe, 11. Possibilities of contamination?—Negligible, except for a few wells in outlying parts. Action taken in respect of any form of contamination?—None. Any liability to plumbo-solvent action?—No. If piped supply, state if water has been controlled by bacteriological examination?—Number of examinations—None. Chemical analyses 12—Results satisfactory. Approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, &c.—104. Have these waters been analysed during the year?—2. 1 unsatisfactory due to presence of B.Coli. Chemical analysis—2; 1 unsafe and 1 of doubtful character. Any insufficiency and where?—None. Nature of extensions (if any) during the year?—7 cottages at Penketh, and 2 at Croft from stand pipes to taps over the sinks.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Sewage Disposal Works, method of treatment?—Burtonwood, precipitation and willow beds ; in other parts, septic tanks but no filters. Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system?—New sewers everywhere where there is new property. Any progress made in improving character and sufficiency of arrangements for drainage?—With the exception of Burtonwood village a comprehensive scheme for the whole area is required. Such a scheme is being prepared. A scheme for dealing with the branches of Poulton-with-Fearnhead and Woolston has been prepared and will be submitted to the Ministry of Health at an early date. Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system, and reason therefor?—Practically all. Action taken—Drain testing, flushing, &c.—Drains in new property properly tested, others when required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—Action taken to check pollution of rivers and streams?—Insistence on septic tanks for all new property. Sources and nature of pollution?—Domestic sewage mainly. Have any new works been established (such as artificial silk works, cheese manufactories, &c.), and is there any resultant river pollution?—No.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1938.—Privy Middens : No. of Middens, 94; No. of Closets attached to these Middens, 139. Does this system still exist in populous and closely built centres?—No. No. of Pail Closets, 1,703; No. of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens), 101; No. of Movable Ashbins, 5,561; No. of Houses on Water Carriage System, 3,821; No. of Fresh Water Closets, 3,811; No. of Waste Water Closets, 13. Conversions—No. of Privy Closets to Fresh W.C.'s, 3; during five years 1933-1937, 9; to Waste W.C.'s, None; to Pails, &c., 1938, 1; 1933-1937, 23; No. of Pail Closets to Fresh W.C.'s, 1938, 4; 1933-1937, 28; to Waste W.C.'s, 1938, None; 1933-1937, None; No. of Waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s; 1938, None; 1933-1937, None; No. of Houses at which Movable

Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles, 1938, 15 ; 1933-1937, 27. Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—Steady pressure being brought to bear on owners. Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—No. What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for *new* property?—Water Closets, wherever practicable.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—(a) The method of collecting dry house refuse?—By contractor's proper covered refuse vehicle in Burtonwood, Penketh, Sankey, Poulton-with-Fearnhead and Rixton-with-Glazebrook, Winwick and Croft. By contractor's horse-drawn vehicles in Cuerdley and Woolston. (b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies?—By Contractors, carts provided by Council ; (c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse?—On Tips (controlled) ; (d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies?—On Agricultural land ; (e) The method of cleansing cesspools?—By hand, in some cases by Council's Workmen, in others by Occupiers of Property ; (f) Arrangements for the disposal of cesspool contents?—Used on Agricultural land. If a destructor provided, state situation.—None. State whether public cleansing is carried out by sanitary authority, contract, or occupiers of houses?—By Contract. Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements?—Proper covered horse-drawn vehicle in Croft. Are motor vehicles used?—Yes, in Burtonwood, Penketh, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Sankey, and Rixton-with-Glazebrook. If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—Day. Does the Sanitary Inspector supervise the scavenging?—Yes.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1938.—No. of premises visited : total, 2,529. Defects or nuisances : No. discovered, 256 ; No. abated, 217 ; No. of Notices served : Informal, 247 ; Statutory, 20. Legal proceedings : none.

SHOPS.—Particulars of any action taken under provisions of Shops Act, 1934, relating to : (a) Ventilation of Shops, Ventilation provided in 6 Shops ; (b) Temperature of Shops, None ; (c) Sanitary Conveniences, 1 Pail Closet converted to Water Closet.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement : Membership of the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee : Resolution passed to join with other Authorities for the formation of a Statutory Smoke Abatement Committee for South-East Lancashire. No. of Factory and Works Chimneys in the District, 14. No. of Observations, 1. No. of Legal Proceedings taken and Result : None. Particulars of any co-operative action with industry : Agreement to use superior fuel and stoke oftener in one instance. What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—Two minutes per half-hour, counting bursts of only 30 seconds or more.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—Brief particulars of any : (a) Public Swimming Baths or Pools, None ; (b) Privately-owned Swimming Baths or Pools open to public : One large Swimming Pool at Woolston. Any action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water?—Inspections by Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector; filtration, chlorination and æration carried on continuously during the summer months.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Particulars of action taken during 1938—No. of houses found to be infested : (a) Council houses, None; (b) Other houses, 12. No of houses disinfested : (a) Council houses, None; (b) Other houses, 12. Methods employed or freeing infested houses from bed bugs : Hydrogen Cyanide, Pyagra and Vermicine. Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses : None required. Is work of disinfestation carried out by local authority or by a contractor?—Contractor for H.C.N.; Local Authority for insecticide. Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing : All infested premises subsequently visited and tenants warned of signs of infestation.

SCHOOLS.—(a) Sanitary condition : Generally good. There are 58 w.c.'s and 19 pails. There is a trough closet (8 w.c.'s) at Burtonwood which is undesirable. There are three schools with unpaved yards. (b) Water supply : All on mains. Satisfactory?—Yes.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—No. : 2. Character : Tanning 1, Glue-making 1. Action taken : Periodically visited by Sanitary Inspector ; no legal action taken. Date of any bye-laws in force in respect of offensive trades : October 6th, 1904. Are they adequate?—Yes.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.—No. on Register : 34. What is their condition?—Good.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.—No. on Register : None. Houses let in Lodgings : None.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, &c., BYELAWS.—None. Action required : None.

CANAL BOATS.—No. inspected, None. No. of Infringements of Acts : None.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1923.—No. of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold : None. No. of inspections : None. No. of samples taken : None. Results : None.

NOTABLE SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS DURING 1938.—Extension of water main in Penketh to seven houses at a cost of £116 16s. 0d.; New Cowshed for 20 cows and new dairy at Croft; New dairy at Penketh;

Three cowsheds and dairies reconditioned at Burtonwood, Woolston and Rixton, respectively.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF DISTRICT.—Paving, draining or making-up of streets and passages in many places. Sanitary conveniences near bus stops. Early completion of sewage scheme and conversion from pail system. Further diminution of smoke nuisance.

4.—HOUSING.

(a) STATISTICS.

No. of new houses erected during the year 1938 :—(a) Total including numbers given separately under (b) : 380; (i) by the Local Authority, 53; (ii) By other Local Authorities, 0; (iii) by other bodies or persons, 327. (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts : (i) by the Local Authority (included under (a) (i) above), 53; (ii) by other bodies or persons (included under (a) (iii) above), 0.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) : 130; (b) No. of inspections made for the purpose, 612. (2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 : 0. (b) No. of inspections made for the purpose : 0. (3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation : 6. (4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation : 24.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers : 38.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 : (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs : 9. (2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—(a) by Owners, 8; (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners, None.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied : 11. (2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (a) by Owners, 2; (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners, None.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.—(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made : None. (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders : 8.

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.—(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made : None. (2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit : None.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936.—OVERCROWDING :—

A.—(1) No. of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year : 38. (2) No. of families dwelling therein : 57. (3) No. of persons dwelling therein : 346.

B.—No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year : 7.

C.—(1) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year : 8. (2) No. of persons concerned in such cases : 69.

(b) HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding : Working-class houses, mainly rows, are generally in good condition, except where there are bad tenants or neglectful landlords. Farmhouses and old cottages are often damp. Most parishes have cottages over 100 years old, but the regular attention given has kept them in good condition. The “ Slum Clearance ” Act has weeded out the worst. Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district : 3.

2. SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES.—(a) Extent of shortage, if any : No actual shortage, but houses at very low rentals are still required. (b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated : Fifty-three houses were completed during 1938 for persons displaced under the “ demolition ” scheme. Forty-three are in course of construction to relieve overcrowding. (c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future : Many new houses for the working classes have been erected in Sankey, Penketh, Poulton and Woolston, which are occupied mainly by former town-dwellers. Several cases of tuberculosis have removed into these areas from neighbouring towns. (d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses : None.

3. OVERCROWDING.—(a) No. of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1938 : One. (b) No. of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations : None. (c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding : None. (d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, *e.g.*, causes—how far it is due to inability to pay the rents of available houses, &c. : If any overcrowding still exists this is likely to be the main cause.

4. FITNESS OF HOUSES.—(a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or Housing Acts : Curtailed incomes of owners, and in some instances procrastination, together with high cost of labour and materials cause delays. (b) No. of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply : 115. (c) No. of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation : None.

5. ACTION TAKEN DURING THE YEAR REGARDING :—Clearance Areas—No. of Areas represented : None. No. of areas cleared, None. No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants : None. Improvement Areas—No. of areas represented : None. No. of houses demolished : None. No. of tenants displaced : None. No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants : None.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) MILK SUPPLY.—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 : All milk-producing premises and dairies are regularly visited and instructions to cowkeepers and dairymen are given as occasions arise.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 AND 1938.—No. of Dealers' Licences (including Supplementary Licences) issued by the Local Authority during 1938 in respect of : "Tuberculin Tested" Milk : (i) Bottling, None; (ii) Distribution, 4. "Accredited" Milk : (i) Bottling, None; (ii) Distribution, 2. No. of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" Milk : Pasteurising plants, None; Retail Distributors, 3. Method used for the pasteurisation of milk ("flash" or "holding") : Holding. Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation : None.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.—Are they periodically inspected?—Yes. How often?—Twice per year and in some cases more. What is their condition?—Fairly satisfactory. Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm

buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds?—Reconstructed cowshed for 6 cows at Rixton. Any information as to the cost of the work, actual or estimated: Not known. Farms—No. of dairy farms, 77; approximate number of cows in the district, 1,110. Cow-keepers: No. of Cowkeepers (including the dairy farms), 77. No. of inspections during the year, 220. Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers): No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors, 27. If a Veterinary Inspector has been appointed, give (a) the approximate number of cows inspected, and (b) the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis: No Veterinary Inspector appointed by the Local Authority. Action taken by Local Authority as to—(i) Tuberculous Milk: No. of samples submitted for biological test, 52. Result: Positive, 2; Negative, 50. (ii) Bacteriological examinations: Standard adopted—not more than 200,000 bacteria per m.l. and no B.Coli in 1/100 m.l. No. of samples: None taken. (iii) Sediment tests: None taken.

(2) MEAT, &c.—Observations on—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughter-houses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared: All such places inspected regularly. No. of legal proceedings and results: None.

(b) Inspection of Meat—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

		Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	...	557	6	2	2053	3325
Number inspected	...	557	6	2	2053	3325
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	—	—	—	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	115	2	—	13	77
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis		20.6	33.33	—	.63	2.5
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	3	1	—	—	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	33	2	—	—	495
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	6.4	50	—	—	15.2

(c) Has a public slaughter-house been provided?—No. Private slaughter-houses: No. registered, 1; No. licensed, 1. Are they conducted satisfactorily?—Yes.

(d) If a meat marketing scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force, give particulars with regard to action taken thereunder : None.

(e) Food poisoning (including suspected cases).—Action taken (if any) : None.

(f) Bakehouses.—Number, 7. Condition, satisfactory.

(3) ADULTERATION, &c.—

Action taken by *Local Authority* in respect of—(i) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, None ; (ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations : None. This Council is not a Food and Drug Authority.

(4) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD (excluding Milk) :—

Number and nature of analyses during the year, and the laboratories to which specimens were sent : None.

(5) NUTRITION :—

Steps taken to increase knowledge of public on the subject and to bring to their minds the importance of adequate nutrition, especially for children, by means of lectures, films, &c. : None.

Particulars of any special investigation which has been made on the subject of nutrition : None.

(6) SHELL-FISH (*Molluscan*) :—

There are no shell-fish beds in the Area.

6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital Accommodation provided or available :—

For Smallpox : Warrington County Borough Smallpox Hospital, Sankey.

Is the hospital used by “ agreement ” or “ arrangement ” ?—
By agreement.

Are any retaining fees paid ?—£55 per annum for Small-pox.

Joint or otherwise : Otherwise.

For other Infectious Diseases : Infectious Diseases Hospitals, Warrington C.B. and Newton-le-Willows U.D. Eight additional cubicles in entirely new block opened at the latter.

If you have the joint use of an isolation hospital or hospitals belonging to some other authority, state nature of "Agreement" or "Arrangement" : By agreement. £3 10s. 0d. per case at Warrington, £2 16s. 0d. at Newton per patient per week,

Joint or otherwise : Otherwise.

Are Patients to contribute towards Cost of Treatment?—No.

Number of Beds available for your District : For Smallpox, as required. For other Infectious Diseases, as required.

Cost of hospital treatment for infectious disease. The cost per patient, year ended March 31st, 1938 (£956 9s. 4d.), £20 estimated.

Observations as to sufficiency or otherwise of the available accommodation : Sufficient.

Has any action been taken or advised with the object of securing that the hospital accommodation available is utilised to the best advantage?—No.

Has action been taken to shorten the period of stay of uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever?—Antistreptococcal serum now generally used in hospital. Or to replace hospital treatment in suitable instances by nursing and supervision at home?—Patients are kept at home where all conditions are suitable.

Have any new methods been adopted for the selection of individual cases for which admission to hospital is most imperative?—No. Or any new decision as to the admission of cases of diseases, such as measles or whooping cough?—No.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

Scarlet Fever, 62 cases, of which 34 occurred in the latter part of the year; 23 occurred in Poulton-with-Fearnhead. Sixteen cases of diphtheria, often of severe type, occurred. Five cases of dysentery (*Sonné*) in one family were the occasion of fullest enquiry and bacteriological investigation.

Diphtheria and cerebro-spinal fever : Many cases of diphtheria were of a severe type; also the one case of cerebro-spinal fever.

Diphtheria anti-toxin.—Notes on the supply and prompt use : Doctors are much more prompt than formerly. Are supplies readily available?—Yes. If so, where kept?—7, Springfield Street, Warrington. Are any other vaccines or sera supplied free to medical practitioners?—Diphtheria immunisation and anti-tetanus.

Any observed relation between various forms of streptococcal

infection (scarlet fever, sore throat occurring without a rash, and puerperal fever): None.

INFLUENZA.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics: None.

Pneumonia, Malaria, and Dysentery.—Experience in regard to these diseases: 20 cases of Pneumonia were notified. No malaria. Five cases of dysentery (*Sonné*) in one family. The first case was in a child two years old, which had suffered from diarrhoea for many weeks before the other members of the family fell ill between February 2nd and 5th, when all were removed to Hospital.

Other diseases which have received special attention, *e.g.*, locally contracted anthrax, epidemic jaundice, rheumatic fever, undulant fever, glandular fever, or psittacosis?—None.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your District, state for what period:—Measles, Diarrhoea (under 2 years), Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox: None. Any others: None.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation?—No.

Discovery of and action taken in regard to (a) contacts: Children contacts in same home of scarlet fever are kept from school a week, diphtheria, two weeks; (b) return cases: one case; (c) carrier cases: None discovered.

The extent to which school intimations of disease are utilised?—Carefully scrutinised every week.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.—At which laboratory are specimens examined?—Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester, and Warrington County Borough Health Department. No. and nature of specimens examined in 1938: 98 for diphtheria; 5 for dysentery (miscellaneous).

No. of times School Closure adopted during 1938 for—Scarlet Fever, 0; Whooping Cough, 0; Diphtheria, 0; Chicken-pox, 0; Measles, 5 infant schools; Influenza, 0; Any other diseases, 0.

No. of Reports made during 1938 under Article 17 (7) of Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935: None.

Immunisation.—Action taken to provide artificial immunisation against diphtheria and/or scarlet fever: (a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools—None. (b) At special clinics or day schools—At four day schools 494 scholars received three injections of T.A.F. One school 31 scholars received two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. (c) Otherwise than (a) or (b)—A few cases treated by own doctor; numbers not ascertainable. Is immunisation material supplied

free to medical practitioners?—Yes. No. of children immunised—Against (a) scarlet fever : None; (b) diphtheria : 525. Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken?—No.

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—No. of houses disinfected during 1938 : 61. Method (state disinfectant used) : Formaldehyde (Fumigators and Sprayer), and liquid Izal. Are houses disinfected after (a) Pulmonary Tuberculosis?—Yes ; (b) Meales?—No. Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise) : Otherwise. No. of Articles disinfected : Not known. Where is Apparatus situated?—Domiciliary only. If Apparatus at hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, &c., of patients *not* removed to the hospital?—No. How disinfection of clothing, &c., in these cases is carried out?—Formaldehyde (Fumigators and Sprayer).

DISINFESTATION.—What arrangements exist for the disinfestation of verminous, &c., persons?—None. In how many instances has this been undertaken?—None. The prevalence of any animal or insect pests such as rats, bugs, fleas, mosquitoes, etc. : Advice given to property owners; rat poison issued free of charge.

CANCER.—Any observations as to the prevalence of cancer?—There were 27 deaths against 20 in 1937 and 26 in 1936. There were also 3 deaths in the County Mental Hospital, Winwick.

Particulars of any action taken to impart to the public information regarding cancer (*i.e.*, facilities available, &c.) : Facilities are available for treatment at the Liverpool Radium Institute, about which Medical Practitioners have been advised.

Particulars of any alteration, improvements or other developments in the availability of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in the Area which have been effected during the year (whether by local authority or voluntary hospitals) : No knowledge of any alterations. This district is a constituent Authority under the Warrington and District Branch of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, with the Liverpool Radium Institute as the centre for treatment.

Are the present facilities adequate?—Yes.

Is any use made of facilities provided by National Radium Centres?—Yes, two cases attended, but there may have been others of which the Health Department has no knowledge.

Any local investigation or action undertaken on the lines suggested in the series of Ministry's circulars on cancer?—No.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—Action taken (if any) under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes : None.

7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Is the Maternity and Child Welfare work carried out by the *local* authority or by the County Council?—By County Council.

What arrangements have been made under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926, for—Hospital Treatment : Treatment is arranged after consulting County Council Health Department. Provision of Nurses : None.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Cases Notified, 1; Treated at home, 1; In Hospital, 0; Vision impaired, 0; Vision unimpaired, 1; Total blindness, 0; Deaths, 0.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION (under Part I of the Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932)—Action taken : None.

(Signed),

JAMES BENNETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 28th, 1939.

TABLE 1.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births		Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	361	174	187
Illegitimate	...	14	9	5
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	375	183	192

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 18.3.

Still Births 16 10 6

Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births : 40.

Deaths 191 98 93

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : *9.3.

Deaths from puerperal causes—Puerperal sepsis, 0 ; Other puerperal causes, 2 ; total, 2. Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births, 5.11.

Death Rate of Infants, under one year of age : All infants per 1,000 live births, 69; Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 63; Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 214.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) : 29.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) : 3.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) : None.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) : None.

PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION. PER 1,000 BIRTHS.

Population...20,430

Maternal Mortality Rate

	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Live Births	Live and Still Births	Rate of Deaths under 1 year
Mean of 5 years							
1933—1937	13.9	10.0	0.32	1.19	8.24	7.94	52
1937 ...	14.6	9.7	0.46	1.07	7.01	6.57	49
1938	18.3	*9.3	0.19	1.41	5.33	5.11	69
Increase or Decrease in 1938 on—							
Five Years'							
Average ...	+4.4	—0.7	—0.13	+0.22	—2.91	—2.83	+17
(1933—1937)							
Previous year	+3.7	—0.4	—0.27	+0.34	—1.68	—1.46	+20

*—1938 adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor, 1.02)=9.4 per 1,000.

TABLE 2.

LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH ISSUED BY THE
REGISTRAR-GENERAL (CIVILIANS ONLY).

						Males.	Females
	ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	98	93
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	0	0
2.	Measles	...	...	...	...	2	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	0	0
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	0
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	1
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	1	0
8.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	1	0
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	3	1
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	0	0
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	...	0	0
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	11	18
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	4	1
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	1	2
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	18	24
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	1	0
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	5
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	2
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	8	4
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	4
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	3	1
23.	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	0	0
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	0	2
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	0	0
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, &c.	...	...	...	...	0	0
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	3	0
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0	0
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	0	2
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c.	...	...	...	...	9	10

						Males.	Females.
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	6	5
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	0
34.	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	4	3
35.	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	12	4
36.	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	...	...	0	0
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)—							
	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	0	0
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	0	0
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—							
	Total	...	...	...	...	15	11
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	13	10
	Illegitimate	...	..	...	...	2	1
Live Births—							
	Total	...	...	...	...	183	192
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	174	187
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	9	5
Stillbirths—							
	Total	...	...	...	...	10	6
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	10	6
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0

TABLE 3.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1938.

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County	WARRINGTON R.D.C. (including County Mental Hospital)
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births :—					
Live	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4	18.3
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48	0.40
Deaths :—					
All causes	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4	9.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—	—
Measles	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.15
Scarlet fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough ..	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.00
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.09
Notifications:—					
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Scarlet fever	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05	3.03
Diphtheria	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90	0.88
Enteric fever	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.00
Erysipelas	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46	0.34
Pneumonia	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98	1.08
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age:—	53	57	51	57	69
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1	0.00
Maternal Mortality :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ..	0.89	Not Available			0.00
Others	2.19				5.33
Total	3.08				5.33

TABLE 3—continued.

	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ..	0.86	}	Not Available		0.00
Others	2.11				5.11
Total	2.97				5.11
Notifications:—					
Puerperal fever ..	14.42	18.08	12.51	3.53	12.78
Puerperal Pyrexia				15.46	

TABLE 4.

BIRTH & DEATH RATES FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS.

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
Death	13.2	12.2	11.0	11.5	9.1	10.6	13.2	10.3	11.0	9.9	10.8	7.7
Birth	19.0	24.8	20.0	19.2	18.6	17.7	17.6	17.1	15.4	12.7	12.8	13.8
Infant Mortality			...	...	85	57	103	77	62	68	53	40
	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.				
Death	9.0	9.4	10.1	9.3	10.9	10.2	9.8	9.3				
Birth	12.8	11.1	13.1	12.8	13.0	16.1	14.6	18.3				
Infant Mortality	71	86	29	72	60	51	49	69				

TABLE 4a.

EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS FOR THE LAST 11 YEARS.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births.
1928	... 16,030	204	159	45
1929	... 15,920	205	173	32
1930	... 15,920	221	124	97
1931	... 16,290	209	148	61
1932	... 16,490	184	156	28
1933	... 15,530	206	159	47
1934	... 16,070	207	151	56
1935	... 16,570	216	182	34
1936	... 18,100	292	185	107
1937	... 19,500	285	190	95
1938	... 20,430	375	191	184

TABLE 5.

LIST OF RESIDENTS RESIDING IN WARRINGTON
RURAL AREA AND DYING OUTSIDE DURING
THE YEAR 1938.

Borough General Hospital, Warrington	29
29, Plumpton Street, Warrington ...	1
Warrington Infirmary	7
5, Clegg Street, Liverpool	1
80, Wakefield Street, Warrington ...	7
Isolation Hospital, Newton	2
Royal Infirmary, Manchester	1
St. Helens Hospital	1
Stretford Memorial Hospital	1
Infectious Diseases Hospital	1
Maternity Home, Grappenhall	1
6, Parkside Road, Newton	1
Leigh Infirmary	1
Wigan Cottage Hospital	1
Rufford Pulmonary Hospital	1
Park Hospital, Davyhulme	1
Salford Royal Hospital	1
702, Leigh Road, Atherton	1
Northern Hospital, Cheetham	1
9, Central Avenue, Warrington ...	1
Royal Infirmary, Liverpool	1
10, Eager Mount, Warrington	1
Burlington Avenue, Oldham	1
20, Nell Lane, Withington	1
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital...	1
Providence Hospital, St. Helens ...	1
No. 3 Pit, Bold Colliery	1

TABLE 5A.

PARISH DISTRIBUTION OF TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.

Burtonwood	...	...	10
Cuerdley	...	...	0
Penketh	...	...	5
Poulton	...	...	16
Rixton	...	...	8
Sankey	...	...	17
Croft	...	...	3
Winwick	...	...	1
Woolston	...	...	8
			<hr/> 68

INQUESTS ON NON-RESIDENTS.

Male belonging to Widnes.

,, ,, Crosby.

,, ,, Darwen.

,, ,, Heatley.

,, ,, Warrington.

,, ,, Southport.

Female ,, ,, Gateshead.

,, ,, Stockton Heath.

,, ,, Thelwall.

,, ,, Warrington.

TABLE 6.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. Number of cases of infectious disease notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1938 :—

D I S E A S E	C A S E S N O T I F I E D .													Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Y E A R S											Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hos-pital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.		
Scarlet Fever	62	...	1	8	...	3	27	12	1	9	1	...	...	34	...
Diphtheria, including membranous croup ...	16	...	...	...	...	1	5	8	...	2	...	...	...	14	...
Acute Influenzal and Acute Primary Pneumonia	20	...	1	1	...	1	4	1	...	4	1	6	1	...	...
Dysentery	5	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	5	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	3	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
District Totals (excluding Tuberculosis)	*116	1	2	10	...	5	39	21	1	20	4	11	2	50	...

* Not including County Mental Hospital cases, or cases of Tuberculosis belonging to the District

TABLE 7. INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS, 1938. DISTRIBUTION.

PARISH	TOTAL	Scarlet Fever	Pneu- monia	Erysipe- las	Diph- theria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cer'bro Spinal Fever	Dysentery	TUBERCULOSIS.		Ophthal- mia Neona- torum	Enceph- litis Lethargica
									Pulmonary	Non-Pulm.		
Burtonwood	16	2	5	2	2	1	...	...	4	...	...	...
Cuerdley	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Penketh	16	8	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1
Poulton-with- Fearnhead	43	23	3	2	9	...	...	5	...	1	...	...
Rixton-with- Glazebrook	9	4	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Great Sankey	16	10	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croft	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Winwick	15	10	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...
Woolston	10	2	1	1	1	2	...	...	3	...	...	...
Totals	*130	62	20	5	16	5	1	5	9	5	1	1

COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL.

* In addition, there were the following notifications from the County Mental Hospital:—Pneumonia, 4; Diphtheria, 2; Erysipelas, 2; Total, 8.

TABLE 8. MONTHLY TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS
BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, 1938.

MONTH.	Scarlet Fever.	Pneu- monia	Erysipelas	Diph- theria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Dysentery	Ophthal- mia Neona- torum	TUBERCULOSIS.		Enceph- litis Lethargica	Cerebro Spinal Fever
								Pulmonary	Non-Pulmon.		
January	5	4	...	3	1	5	...	1	...	...	...
February	3	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
March	2	1	...	4	...	...	1	2	1	...	...
April	3	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May	4	4	...	1	3	...	...	...	3	...	...
June	1	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...
July	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
August	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
September	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
October	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
November	16	1	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
December	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	62	20	5	16	5	5	1	9	5	1	1 = Total 130

TABLE 9.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Proportion of Notified Cases (Pneumonia included only since 1930).

Year.		Population		Cases		Rate per 1,000.
1914	...	14999	...	142	...	9.5
1915	...	10903	...	143	...	13.1
1916	...	10597	...	65	...	6.1
1917	...	10728	...	52	...	5.0
1918	...	10629	...	92	...	8.6
1919	...	11164	...	70	...	6.3
1920	...	11603	...	54	...	4.7
1921	...	12260	...	101	...	8.2
1922	...	12320	...	80	...	6.5
1923	...	12530	...	74	...	5.9
1924	...	12830	...	68	...	5.3
1925	...	13100	...	122	...	9.3
1926	...	13490	...	57	...	4.4
1927	...	13520	...	36	...	2.7
1928	...	16030	...	72	...	4.4
1929	...	15920	...	84	...	5.3
1930	...	15920	...	76	...	4.7
1930	(including Pneumonia)		...	105	...	6.6
1931	do.	16290	...	145	...	8.8
1932	do.	16490	...	79	...	4.8
1933	...	15530	...	126	...	8.1
1934	do.	16070	...	147	...	9.0
1935	do.	16570	...	189	...	11.4
1936	do.	18100	...	214	...	11.8
1937	do.	19500	...	117	...	6.0
1938	do.	20430	...	130	...	6.3

TABLE 10.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

(not including County Mental Hospital).

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.										
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1
5—10	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
20—25	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	...	...	4	...	1	...	2	...	1	...
35—45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
55—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	5	4	2	3	3	1	1	2
			9		5		4		3	

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths?—Nil.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient?—Generally yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?—No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?—No.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.—Any action taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade?—Under Articles 3, 5, 6 and 7 : None.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925.—Any action taken under Section 62?—None.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Fourth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

HOUSING.

Considerable work has been done throughout the year. Houses have been repaired and made in all respects fit for human habitation, and several which could not be made fit at reasonable cost have been demolished. Houses reported to be overcrowded have been measured, and the number of occupants reduced by members of the family sleeping out, or getting married, or finding alternative accommodation.

BROOKSIDE COTTAGE, TAN HOUSE LANE, BURTONWOOD.

Work has been carried out at the above cottage so as to make it in all respects fit for human habitation. Windows have been enlarged, a bath-room and w.c. provided and other work has been carried out amounting to a cost of £195.

Visits to Houses (Public Health Acts)	...	...	237
„ „ „ Overcrowded (Housing Acts)	...	...	54
„ „ „ for repairs	„	...	344
„ „ „ for demolition	„	...	31
Houses made in all respects fit for human habitation			4

TABLE II.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 (SECTIONS 11 & 13).

HOUSES SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION.

Parish	Vacant.	Occupied.	Demolished	Undertakings given not to let	Made fit	Fresh houses inspected
Burtonwood	4	5	4	1	4	...
Croft	11	2	...	2	...	...
Cuerdley ... ..	...	1	...	—	...	...
Penketh	5	3	...	—	...	...
Poulton	2	9	1	1	...	3
Rixton	1	2	...	1	...	...
Sankey	1	7	1	2	...	...
Winwick	1	10	3	—	...	2
Woolston	1	...	1	—	...	...
TOTALS	26	39	10	7	4	5

HOUSING ACT, 1936 (SECTION 66).

OVERCROWDING.

Parish	Houses overcrowded 1st January, 1938	Fresh cases of overcrowding 1938	Houses overcrowded abated 1938	Houses overcrowded 31st Dec., 1938
Burtonwood ...	14	—	1	13
Croft ...	5	—	1	4
Cuerdley ...	1	—	—	1
Penketh ...	5	1	1	5
Poulton ...	6	1	2	5
Rixton ...	3	—	2	1
Sankey ...	5	2	—	7
Winwick ...	—	—	—	—
Woolston ...	3	1	1	3
Totals ...	42	5	8	39

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (SECTION 83).

Instead of serving notices on the occupiers of premises, the Council decided to have verminous houses disinfested. At the beginning of 1937, this work was carried out by Contractors—The Hivey Fumigation Company, who used Hydrogen Cyanide at a cost of between £5 and £6 per house, but this practice was discontinued in 1938, and disinfestation was carried out by using liquid pyagra at a cost of 5s. per house to the Owner.

There has been an increase in the number of verminous houses during the year. There were 9 cases and these were generally found in inferior new houses occupied by people who had removed into the district from the adjoining towns.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The saving to this Council of the cost of steam disinfection and transport of bedding was continued during the year, the work being carried out by my Assistant and myself. The method adopted is the spraying of rooms and bedding with Formaldehyde solution.

In addition to the disinfection of houses affected with Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Tuberculosis, requests to disinfect after cases of Cancer, etc., are complied with. In the latter case, bedding is often removed to the refuse tips and burned, if they have been accompanied by discharges.

Diphtheria Immunisation which only commenced in September, is reported on fully by your Medical Officer of Health on Page 6.

Enquiries and visits	...	...	...	...	...	57
Houses disinfected for Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	29
„ „ „ Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ „ Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ „ Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ „ Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	2

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE.

Instructions have been issued to all people desirous of storing Petroleum and/or Carbide. All new installations, with the exception of Contractors for the Air Ministry have been restricted to underground tanks surrounded with sand in brick chambers.

New Petroleum Licences issued during the year	...	...	...	...	...	2
Renewals of Petroleum Licences issued during the year	...	...	...	...	...	52
Amount of Petroleum permitted to be stored	...	...	...	...	...	54,450 gallons
Amount of Carbide of Calcium permitted to be stored	...	...	...	...	...	2,576 lbs.
Total fees paid	...	...	...	...	...	£31 10 0

WATER SUPPLY.

Following complaints from residents at Fidlers Ferry, Penketh, having to carry water on the average approximately 100 yards from a standpipe, I communicated with the Owners, the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company, and they had the main extended to seven houses at a cost of £116 16s. 0d.

The occupants of two houses, Nos. 72 and 74, Heath Lane, Croft, were found to be carrying water from a standpipe. These were connected to the main supply. Further houses which had to carry water have been closed for demolition so that the figure of 23 for last year has now been reduced to 10.

There were 2 samples of water taken for analysis, both of which were fairly satisfactory.

NUMBER OF HOUSES—					
	In Parish	On Main inside	On Main outside	On Pump	On Draw-well
Burtonwood ...	515	502	—	9	4
Cuerdley ...	32	27	—	4	1
Croft ...	365	343	—	15	7
Penketh ...	991	965	5	18	3
Poulton ...	1204	1193	—	11	—
Rixton ...	422	411	—	11	—
Sankey ...	1228	1225	1	2	—
Winwick ...	374	366	4	2	2
Woolston ...	565	560	—	4	1
	<u>5696</u>	<u>5592</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>18</u>

MEAT.

It is pleasing to note that practically all of the animals slaughtered in the district have been inspected. This has necessitated inspections after office hours and on Sundays.

	Number of Animals slaughtered.	No. of whole carcasses condemned.	No. of carcasses of which some part was condemned.	Total weight in lbs of meat condemned.
Beasts ...	565	4	152	3,539
Pigs ...	3,325	18	572	13,295
Sheep ...	2,053	—	13	112
Butchers' shops ...	...	...	...	6
Butchers' shops and van inspections ...	...	...	...	32
Slaughter-house inspections ...	...	...	...	380
Cottages and farms inspections ...	...	...	...	11
Licensed slaughtermen ...	...	...	...	8

MILK SUPPLY.

A new dairy was constructed and improvements to the cowshed were carried out at the premises of Mr. W. Laing, 206, Winwick Road, Hulme, to satisfy the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Extensive alterations and repairs were carried out to the old cowshed and dairy at Enfield Farm, Croft, at a cost of £70, and a new cowshed to hold 20 cows was built at a cost of approximately £350. The premises are now suitable for the production of "Accredited" milk.

Alterations to the dark old cowsheds and dairy at Manor Farm, Martinscroft, Woolston, were carried out so as to give sufficient light and more room at the back of the cattle at a cost of approximately £180.

Extensive alterations were carried out to the cowshed and dairy at Rowe Farm, Culcheth, the cost amounting to £186. This enabled the farmer to apply for a licence to produce "Accredited" milk, which licence has now been granted to him.

Producers :						
Ordinary	...	...	...	...	...	81
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	9
Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Producers—Retailers :						
Ordinary	...	...	...	...	...	42
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	—
Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Retailers :						
Ordinary	...	...	...	...	...	20
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	3
Samples taken for detection of Tubercle Bacilli :						
Positive	...	...	...	...	...	2
Negative	...	...	...	...	...	52
Inspections :						
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	490

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Considerable work has been done during the year in attending to complaints regarding defective pails and ashbins, and although a defective receptacle may appear to sound trivial, the amount of time taken in travelling, inspecting the premises, correspondence and re-inspections is of great importance, and the adoption of a scheme whereby the Council purchases these receptacles and supplies them when necessary and the conversion of

pails into water closets would save a great deal of time which may be used for other Public Health work requiring more careful consideration, but sewerage schemes have been formulated and much conversion work is anticipated in the near future.

Refuse disposal is by "Controlled Tipping." This is carried out on the two main Refuse Tips in Sankey and Woolston in two layers of approximately 6 feet deep. Paper and waste food are burnt, tins are raked to the base of the tips, and the top surface is soiled over and turfed. The remaining small tips in the Area have attention by the Council's tip attendants half a day each week and this is satisfactory since the tips are situated well off the main road and away from houses.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN THE DISTRICT.

Ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles	...	...	15
Ashbins	...	...	5561
Ashpits	...	...	101
Additional water closets	...	...	4
Privy closets (houses on)	...	...	139
Pail closets	...	...	1703
„ „ (schools)	...	...	19
Fresh water closets (houses)	...	...	3811
„ „ „ (factories)	...	...	58
„ „ „ (schools)	...	...	59
Waste „ „	...	...	13
Conversions of privy closets to pail closets	...	...	1
„ „ „ water „	...	...	3
„ „ pail „ „	...	...	6

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Numerous complaints have been received during the year of the foul condition of the polluted ditches and streams. In most cases these ditches have been cleaned out, and for a time the nuisances have been alleviated, but with the abnormal amount of building in the last few years, conditions have become very objectionable and the obvious remedy is of course to provide adequate sewers particularly in the more populous parts of the area.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance given me by the additional Inspector, Mr. Donald, also by the Officials and their staffs throughout the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM EDWARD BREEDS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

